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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Federal Land Grants to the States, with Special Reference to Minnesota. By MATTHIAS NORDBERG ORFIELD. (University of Minnesota Studies in the Social Sciences, No. 2.) Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1915. Large 8vo, pp. v+275. \$1.00.

The most useful portion of this volume will be found to be Part III, which deals with the actual administration of the public lands in Minnesota. Part I, "Colonial Precedents," furnishes little that is new, while Part II, "Land Grants to the States and Territories," is important chiefly for the unusually good discussion and summary of the cases touching the authority of the federal government over the public domain (chap. xi). But what really profits us is to find out how Minnesota, one of the principal beneficiaries of our all too prodigal land policy, has acquitted itself in the stewardship of its seventeen million acres of public lands. It is indeed a sorry tale; nearly every page yields its story of fraud, of big graft and little graft, of robbery and jobbery. The state has lost so much of its grass lands, swamp lands, mineral lands, and especially of its timber lands, that it now has title to only a little over two and a half million acres of the original grants; and with one conspicuous exception it has very little to show in exchange for the rest. Most of the state timber has disappeared—some of it was sold much below its true value, a great deal of it stolen outright, and much of it lost through disastrous forest fires. Likewise, though the state has always reserved to itself the mineral rights in the public lands, it has deprived itself of a large share of the royalties on its mineral leases because of its failure to provide adequate inspection.

In striking contrast to the experience in the management of the lands is the account of the administration of the permanent trust funds derived from the sale of the school lands and others. These funds now aggregate nearly twenty-eight million dollars and are increasing at the rate of a million a year. They have been invested not only safely but profitably. Moreover, a useful system of loans to towns, counties, school districts, villages, and cities for the erection of public buildings has been inaugurated. A considerable portion of the state's own debt is held by these funds.

The author would have measurably enhanced the value of his work by adding a chapter in summary and general criticism of the Minnesota experience, and by a more judicious use of tabular statements. He has relied for his information almost wholly on statutes, reports of public officers, and the findings of official commissions of investigation. His bibliography, however, lists a number of secondary sources, but omits notably Treat's *The National Land System*, and the useful papers included in the *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. The *Life, Journals, and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler* is cited on pp. 38 and 39 (without, however, a mention of the names of the editors), but does not appear in the bibliography. Donaldson's *The Public Domain* is listed simply as "Thomas Donaldson, *The Public Domain*," without subtitle or date. On p. 66 is a gross error in the table showing the grants of salt-spring lands to the states. These and similar slips somewhat impair one's confidence in what seems to be in most respects a trustworthy as well as valuable contribution in this field.

VICTOR J. WEST

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

A History of the Family as a Social and Educational Institution.

By WILLYSTINE GOODSSELL. New York: Macmillan, 1915.
8vo, pp. xiv+588. \$2.00.

This book marks an interesting stage in the rapid development of research and discussion concerning the family. It was only recently that this institution began to receive the attention which properly belongs to it. Already a very considerable body of literature exists, and Dr. Goodsell performs a real service by including in each chapter a bibliography of sources and secondary works with supplementary footnotes. The reader, however, misses a reference to Dewey and Tufts's discussion of the family in their *Ethics*, as well as to J. H. Tufts's later paper on "The Ethics of the Family," and to E. T. Devine's *The Family and Social Work*.

Dr. Goodsell's book is published as one of the "Text Book Series," edited by Paul Monroe, and it is frankly a textbook. The emphasis is properly upon the historical aspects, to which four hundred and fifty pages are devoted. Following these twelve chapters, which trace the family from primitive times through the nineteenth century, are chapters on "The Present Situation" and "Current Theories of Reform." It is a sign of the wholesome change which has taken place in the public atti-